

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6432

S E C R E T BANGKOK 14128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV TH

SUBJ: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS SHIFT IN NORTHEAST

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI, CO 8TH TFW UBON,
CO 388TH TFW KORAT FROM UDORN SEPT 10 73 AND REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UDORN 107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: P GOV, TH

SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS SHIFT IN NORTHEAST

1. SUMMARY: AT FIRST GLANCE, SHIFT OF SENIOR PROVINCIAL
OFFICIALS IN NORTHEAST ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK APPEARS TO BE
OVERALL CHANGE FOR BETTER. OUT OF 16 PROVINCES, SEVEN
WILL CHANGE GOVERNORS AND SIX VICE GOVERNORS IN NEXT
FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCT 1. VICE GOVERNOR POSITIONS
CREWZED FOR FIRST TIME IN PROVINCES OF UDORN, LOEI, KALASIN,
AND SAKON NAKHON WHERE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS PARTICULARLY
ACTIVE. GOVERNORS IN USAF BASE TOWNS OF UDORN, UBON, AND
KORAT WILL BE NEW AS WILL BE VICE GOVERNORS IN UDORN AND
UBON. IN THESE THREE PROVINCES, ONLY KORAT EXPECTED BE

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WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE. FOLLOWING IS INITIAL LOOK AT

SHIFTS BY PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. UDORN. NEW GOVERNOR ANEK SITTHIPRASAT MOVING FROM DEPUTY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (DOLA) SCHOOL NEAR BANGKOK. ANEK REPORTEDLY HAS MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM U.S., AND ABILITY SPEAK ENGLISH SHOULD FACILITATE RELATIONS WITH BASE. SURPRISING THAT ANEK REPORTEDLY VERY YOUNG 44 FOR A GOVERNOR AND NEVER GOVERNOR BEFORE BUT APPOINTED TO HEAD LARGE PROVINCE OF UDORN. IN PAST GOVERNORS HERE HAVE PREVIOUSLY APPRENTICED AS GOVERNORS OF SMALLER PROVINCES.

3. TO FILL NEW VICE GOVERNOR JOB, CURRENT DEPUTY GOVERNOR METHI S. SISUPHAP TO BE PROMOTED AFTER RECENTLY COMPLETING THREE MONTH DOLA SCHOOL SENIOR OFFICER COURSE, GIVEN FOR FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. OF SIX DEPUTY GOVERNORS FROM NORTHEAST WHO ATTENDED, ONLY THREE PROMOTED THIS YEAR. METHI SEEMS RELATIVELY HONEST, GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, FAIRLY QUIET. FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS BUT ENGLISH POOR.

4. NAKHON PHNOM. NO CHANGE IN GOVERNOR WHO ONE OF BEST IN NORTHEAST, NOR VICE GOVERNOR, BOTH OF WHOM PROMOTED TO POSITIONS LESS THAN A YEAR AGO.

5. UBON. AFTER SIX YEARS IN UDORN, GOVERNOR CHAROEN PANTHONG MOVES TO UBON WHERE HE LIKELY REMAIN THREE YEARS UNTIL RETIREMENT. CHAROEN CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN BUT POOR ADMINISTRATOR ALTHOUGH HE HAS REPUTATION FOR MAKING LOTS OF MONEY ON SIDE. HE LAUNCHED NUMBER OF GRANDIOSE COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN UDORN, BUT OVERLY PUBLICIZED THEM AND OBTAINED POOR RESULTS AS INSURGENCY IN UDORN WORSENEDED CONSIDERABLY DURING RECENT YEARS. CHAROEN HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY TO U.S. MILITARY IN UDORN, HOWEVER, AND EXPECTED PROMOTE BASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN UBON.

6. NEW VICE GOVERNOR DETCHAT WONGKOMONCHET COMES FROM PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE. DETCHAT REPORTEDLY YOUNG, HAD SOME TRAINING IN U.S. AND SPEAKS ENGLISH, BUT HAS LITTLE OR NO EXPERIENCE IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. WITH CURRENT DEPUTY GOVERNOR KREE ROTKHAMDI PROMOTED TO VICE GOVERNOR IN

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SAKON NAKHON, THREE TOP OFFICIALS IN UBON WILL BE NEW TEAM, ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR CHAROEN SERVED THERE 14 YEARS AGO AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR. CURRENT GOVERNOR POLICE MAJOR GENERAL WICHIAN SRIMANTON HAS BEEN ILL IN BANGKOK HOSPITAL LAST SIX MONTHS AND BEING REASSIGNED AS MINISTRY OF INTERIOR INSPECTOR. VICE GOVERNOR WUTHINAN PONGARAYA PROMOTED TO GOVERNOR BURIRAM.

7. KORAT. GOVERNOR PRAMOON SATTHATHIP MOVES FROM ROI ET TO KORAT WHERE HE BORN. PRAMOON REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO DEPUTY PRINCE FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT WHOM HE RESEMBLES IN APPEARANCE. HE WAS IMPLICATED IN SHOOTING IN HIS PRESENCE OF VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS MEMBER IN ROI ET BUT CAST NEVER WENT TO COURT. PRAMOON TYPICAL OLD STYLE THAI GOVERNOR WHO LIKES TO DRINK AND SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH. BASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS KORAT NOT EXPECTED BE AS GOOD AS UNDER GOVERNOR RADOM MAHASARANON WHO MOVES TO AYUTHYA. VICE GOVERNOR ANAN AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR BOONYOT REMAIN, HOWEVER, WITH ANAN PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO U.S. AND GOOD ENGLISH SPEAKER.

8. LOEI. GOVERNOR SAWAT CHALERMPHONG MOVES FROM PATCHABUN WITH CURRENT GOVERNOR WIJIN SATCHAWETHA GOING TO UTTARADIT. WIJIN FRIENDLY BUT HAS DONE LITTLE TO STEM INSURGENCY. NEWLY CREATED VICE GOVERNOR POSITION GOES TO CHALIO JARATSI, DEPUTY GOVERNOR AYUTHYA WHO JUST COMPLETED DOLA SENIOR COURSE. REQUEST CHIANG MAI COMMENTS ON SAWAT.

9. NONG KHAI. PROBABLE GAIN HERE AS KAMPHON KLINSUKHON, GOVERNOR OF CHAINAT AND FORMER VICE GOVERNOR NONG KHAI, RETURNS TO REPLACE MAJOR GENERAL CHAI UBONDETPRACHARAK WHO GOES TO ROI ET.

10. ROI ET. GOVERNOR CHAI, FORMER AIDE TO MARSHAL PRAPHAT, MOVES HERE FROM NONG KHAI ALTHOUGH HE REPORTEDLY WANTED UBON. REPORTEDLY AMONG MOST CORRUPT GOVERNORS IN NORTHEAST.

11. KHON KAEN. GOVERNOR BURI WHO ALSO ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION STAYS, WHILE GOOD DEPUTY GOVERNOR CHAMNAN POTCHANA LEAVES FOR BURIRAM AS VICE GOVERNOR.

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12. KALASIN. PRASERT CHINAJIT, AFTER COMPLETING DOLA SENIOR COURSE, MOVES UP FROM DEPUTY GOVERNOR. SAMUT SAKHON TO NEW VICE GOVERNOR POSITION IN SENSITIVE KALASIN. GOOD GOVERNOR WICHIAN REMAINS.

13. SAKON NAKHON. NEWLY CREATED VICE GOVERNOR JOB IN SENSITIVE PROVINCE GOES TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR KREE ROTKHAMDI OF UBON WHO ALSO COMPLETED DOLA SENIOR OFFICER COURSE. KREE FRIENDLY TO U.S. IN PAST.

14. BURIRAM. VICE GOVERNOR WUTHINAN OF UBON, YOUNG AT 48, MOVES HERE FROM UBON. RECOMMENDING WUTHINAN FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM SINCE HE LIKELY MOVE UP FURTHER. CURRENT VICE GOVERNOR KRIT KETKAEW WHO HAS U.S.

MASTER'S DEGREE AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH MOVES ON TO
BECOME GOVERNOR OF CHAINAT. NEW VICE GOVERNOR WILL BE
DEPUTY GOVERNOR CHAMNAN POTCHANA FROM KHON KAEN WHO
COMPLETED DOLA SENIOR COURSE AND ALSO HAS MASTER'S
DEGREE FROM U.S. SIGNED HAMILTON UNQUOTE
UNGER

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